

## SCORING CRITERIA

Population. Proposed project(s) will primarily be located in a community of (1) between 15,000 and 25,000 population - 5 points, (2) between 5,000 and 15,000 population - 10 points, (3) under 5,000 population - 15 points.

### Economic conditions.

(A) Proposed project(s) will primarily be located in areas where the unemployment rate exceeds the State rate by 25 percent or more - 20 points; exceeds the State rate by less than 25 percent - 10 points; is equal to or less than State rate - 0 points.

(B) Proposed project(s) will primarily be located in areas where Median Household Income (MHI) as prescribed by Section 673 (2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C 9902 (2)) for a family of 4 for the State is: less than poverty line - 25 points; more than poverty line but less than 85 percent of State MHI - 15 points; between 85 percent and 100 percent of State MHI - 10 points; equal or greater than State MHI - 0 points.

Experience. Applicant has evidence of at least 5 years of successful experience in the type of activity proposed in the application for funds under this subpart. Evidence of successful experience may be (1) a description of experience supplied and certified by the applicant, or (2) a letter of support from appropriate local elected officials explaining the applicant's experience. Experience - 10 points.

### Other.

(A) Applicant has evidence that small business development will occur by startup or expansion as a result of the activities to be carried out under the grant. Written evidence of commitment by small business must be provided to Rural Development - 25 points.

(B) Applicant has evidence of substantial commitment of funds from nonfederal sources for proposed project. An authorized representative of the source organization of the nonfederal funds must provide evidence that the funds are available and will be used for the proposed project. More than 50 percent of the project costs from nonfederal sources - 15 points; more than 25 percent, but less than 50 percent, of project costs from nonfederal sources - 10 points; between 5 percent and 25 percent of project costs from nonfederal sources - 5 points.

(C) For a grant to establish a revolving fund, the applicant provides evidence to the Agency through loan applications or letters from businesses that the loans are needed by small and emerging businesses in the proposed project area - 25 points.

(D) The anticipated development, expansion, or furtherance of business enterprises as a result of the proposed project will create and/or save jobs associated with the affected businesses. The number of jobs must be evidenced by a written commitment from the business to be assisted. One job per each \$10,000 or less in grant funds expended - 10 points. One job per each \$25,000 to \$10,000 in grant funds expended - 5 points.

(E) The proposed grant project is consistent with, and does not duplicate, economic development activities for the project area under an existing community or economic development plan covering the project area. If no local plan is in existence for the project area, an area-wide plan may be used. The plan used must be adopted by the appropriate governmental officials/entities as the area's community or economic development plan. Appropriate plan references and copies of appropriate sections of the plan, as well as evidence of plan adoption by appropriate governmental officials, should be provided to the Agency. Project is reflected in a plan - 5 points.